

On behalf of my local internet service and my fellow internet clients, I urge you not to put all control of internet access in the hands of giant corporations and conglomerates. We expect you to carry out your responsibilities to the consumers of this nation.

Verizon has filed a petition at the FCC, asking the FCC to stop regulating broadband service.

If this petition is granted, this would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs like BerkshireNet. As a result, we would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise our prices, and yours in the long term.

Verizon already makes it difficult for ISPs to provide DSL service to its customers. But the more serious threat is that it is even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for DSL service, and no ISP would be able to sell DSL at all.

Verizon's claim is that because their own affiliated ISP service (Verizon On-Line or VoL) already controls a huge majority of the market, so squashing the rest of the competition isn't likely to impact the market much.

The companies which built the Internet itself should not be wiped away and replaced by the large telephone monopolies.

Thank you.